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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/035,644	12/28/2001	Gordon Haggott Beckhart	MCT-0103	4114

7590

07/06/2005

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EXAMINER

NOVOSAD, JENNIFER ELEANORE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,644

Applicant(s)

BECKHART ET AL.

Examiner

Jennifer E. Novosad

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This final Office action is in response to the amendment filed May 4, 2005 by which claims 1-12, 14, and 18 were amended.

Drawings

The drawings were received on May 4, 2005. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,398,032 (Fosnight *et al.* '032) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,228,902 (Schulte '902).

Fosnight *et al.* '032 disclose a semiconductor cassette reducer interlock with a unified pod carrier comprising a unified pod carrier (20), i.e., a holder, houses a semiconductor cassette, i.e., cassette reduced (22- see Figure 2), the semiconductor cassette reducer comprises a first substantially U-shaped plate (46) having a pair of interior arm cutouts (see Figure 5B), a second substantially U-shaped plate (48) having a pair of arm cutouts, and a plurality of wafer supports, i.e., first and second wafer supports (28), includes a pair of columns (i.e., vertical portion at 28 in Figure 1) and being joined between the first and second substantially U-shaped plates (46 and 48); *with respect to claim 5*, the wafer supports (28) includes a pair, i.e., each support has one

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panel on each end thereof and thus together there is pair defined adjacent the first plate (46), of side panels (see Figure 1 - horizontal segments connected at each end of 28 or 28 shown in Figure 2) connected to a pair of arms (see Figure 5B - top view of plate 46) of the first plate (46); *with respect to claim 6*, the side panels have a plurality of lips (30); at least two latching mechanisms (42, 50 - see Figure 7) which engage the unified pod carrier in order to prevent any significant side-to-side movement of the semiconductor cassette reducer in the unified pod carrier whereby the latching mechanism of Fosnight *et al.* '032 is not a spring, as in claim 1 or a resiliently flexible member as in claim 10; and the first pair of arms (see Figure 5B) of the first plate (46) each has a first arm cutout, and the second plate (48) can have similar structure (see column 9, lines 62-64), i.e., a pair of arms each having a cutout.

The claims differ from Fosnight *et al.* '032 in requiring more than two retention springs (claim 1), i.e., flexible retention members.

Schulte teaches a spring loaded (41) latching mechanism (23) that locks the semiconductor cassette with the carrier (see Figures 1-4).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the latching mechanism of Fosnight *et al.* '032 to be a spring loaded latching mechanism in order to control the length of the latching mechanism to extend through and attach to the carrier and prevent the cassette from falling out of the carrier (see column 3, lines 13-16 and 54-55).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fosnight *et al.* '032 in view of Schulte '902 as applied to claims 1-6, 8, and 9 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,843 (Ohori '843).

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The claims differ from the above references in requiring a plate with a S-shaped cutout.

Ohuri teaches a top plate (A) of a semiconductor cassette reducer has an exterior partial S-shaped cutout located adjacent to the side panel (C1 - see Figure 7).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to provide the top plate of Fosnight et al' '032 with the provision of an exterior partial S-shaped cutout, as taught by Ohori '843, for an aesthetic purpose or to reduce the weight of the semiconductor cassette, thus producing no new matter or unexpected results to the device.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-13; 14, 15, 17, and 18 are allowed and *as previously indicated*, claim 16 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, with respect to claims 1-9, filed May 4, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's arguments (in the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13) concerning the structural difference between a "cassette" and a "cassette reducer", it is noted that these arguments are considered to be more limiting than what is actually being claimed and therefore are not commensurate with the scope of the claim. *In particular*, the examples applicant listed, e.g., "retention members that allow snap in/snap out mounting" and "supports accommodating smaller size substrates", in support of the structural differences, are not present

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in the claims. *Accordingly*, the *structure* present in the claims is considered to be met by the combination of references, as advanced above.

Regarding applicant's arguments (in the bottom of the first paragraph on page 13) that "Schulte also fails to make any disclosure or suggestion whatsoever of a cassette reduced", it is noted that Schulte has not been utilized to show or teach this feature, and thus applicant's arguments are not commensurate with the teachings of Schulte.

Applicant's arguments (in the bottom of page 13) that neither Fosnight nor Schulte make any hint to "cassette reducer effect[ing] a reduction in the substrate holder enabling the holder to hold a substrate smaller than a predetermined size" are noted. *However*, this recitation in the claims is a *functional* recitation and thus a reference need not explicitly show this teaching in order to meet this language in the claim. *Rather*, a reference need only *be capable* of functioning in such a way and the examiner's position is that the combination of references, as advanced above, is capable of doing just that.

Applicant's arguments (see pages 14 and 15) regarding the rejections of (at least) claims 10 and 14 are acknowledged and in view of the amendment to these claims, an indication, that these claims are allowed, is advanced above.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

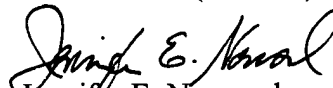
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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer E. Novosad whose telephone number is 571-272-6832. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard E. Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jennifer E. Novosad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

June 30, 2005